

OSTROM WORKSHOP COLLOQUIUM SERIES

Vanessa Casado Pérez

Texas A&M School of Law

“Liquid Business”

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12:00–1:00 PM • Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



There are plenty of unstoppable forces pushing water to be the new oil as it becomes scarcer due to climate change, population growth, and lifestyle changes. Today, in addition to traditional water rights exchanges, water markets broadly understood include large multinational conglomerates bidding for our water utilities, investment in water reuse, and specialized investment funds purchasing interests in water-related companies. These lucrative investments in water sidestep traditional water law doctrines aimed at preventing speculation and ensuring that externalities are internalized, profit from regulatory gaps, and are perceived as commodifying and corporatizing an essential and common good—water. Water markets can be a positive tool for water management but market reallocation does not need to come at the expense of the human right to water, the community of origin, or the environment. This article offers a portfolio of measures to mitigate the negative consequences of these new and expanded water markets.



[Vanessa Casado Pérez](#) is an associate professor at Texas A&M School of Law and Texas A&M Department of Agricultural Economics. She is affiliated with the Bill Lane Center for the American West at Stanford University and the CLI at NYU. Her scholarship focuses on property and natural resources. Her recent work explores management of scarce goods, from water to parking.

Presentations are open to the public and are live streamed (see our website for URL and papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855–3151).